

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 AID-05 OMB-01 COME-00

TRSE-00 CIEP-01 /071 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2481

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 9113

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO, BE

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE MINISTER ALVES' VISIT TO BELGIUM

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR FOR WESTERN AFFAIRS (RONSE) REVIEWED
FOR US NOVEMBER 20 RESULTS OF ONE-DAY VISIT OF PORTUGUESE MINISTER
WITHOUT PORTFOLIO VICTOR ALVES TO BRUSSELS NOVEMBER 13. RONSE SAW
ALVES' PURPOSE IN TOURING EUROPE AS BEING TO INFORM HIMSELF AND
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ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT ON SITUATION AND ATTITUDES ABROAD AND, ON

PUBLIC RELATIONS SIDE, TO ACQUAINT EUROPEANS AND PORTUGUESE
EXPATRIATE WORKERS WITH NEW PORTUGUESE REGIME.

2. ALVES WAS GREETED ENTHUSIASTICALLY AT AIRPORT BY DOZENS OF
PORTUGUESE, DRAWN FROM THOUSANDS WHO WORK IN BELGIUM. HIS OFFICIAL
CONTACTS WERE IN FORM OF HALF-HOUR COURTESY CALL ON FOREIGN
MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE. ALVES TOLD VAN ELSLANDE THAT
PORTUGAL WANTS GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH EAST AND WEST BUT, AS
COUNTRY BASED ON WEST EUROPEAN TRADITION, IT SEEKS CLOSEST TIES
WITH WESTERN EUROPE. THUS ECONOMIC AID FROM EEC IS PARTICULARLY
IMPORTANT TO PORTUGUESE. NOTING PORTUGAL'S DETERMINATION TO
CONTINUE DECOLONIZING ITS AFRICAN TERRITORIES, ALVES SAID THAT
EUROPEAN AID WOULD TAKE ON EXTRA SIGNIFICANCE DURING NEXT TWO YEARS
BECAUSE PORTUGAL INTENDS TO HONOR ITS FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS TO
THOSE TERRITORIES. NO DEFENSE OR NATO ISSUES WERE RAISED.

3. VAN ELSLANDE TOLD ALVES THAT BELGIUM WOULD NOT BE IN POSITION
TO AID PORTUGAL BILATERALLY. RONSE COMMENTED TO US THAT ALVES
APPARENTLY HAD NOT EXPECTED BELGIAN BILATERAL ASSISTANCE BUT HOPED
FOR, AND WILL OBTAIN, SYMPATHETIC BELGIAN CONSIDERATION IN CONTEXT
OF EC-9. INDEED, IN PRESS CONFERENCE, NATO ASPECTS OF WHICH WERE
REPORTED IN LISBON 4963, ALVES PRAISED BELGIUM FOR BEING ONE OF
FIRST COUNTRIES TO DECLARE ITS SUPPORT FOR PORTUGAL'S MOVE TOWARD
DEMOCRACY AND SAID THAT HE EXPECTED BELGIUM "TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT
US AMONG THE NINE." FIRESTONE

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